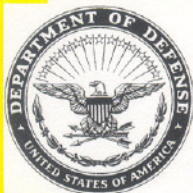


SAFETY ALERT



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339



AUG 15 2006

AFZX-SA

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: An M35A2 Truck, Cargo (Two and One-Half ton) and Train Accident -- Safety Alert 06-03

1. A Soldier was recently involved in an accident with a train while driving a two and one-half ton truck on post. The Soldier attempted to cross the railroad tracks located at the intersection of 4th Street and Texas Avenue and was struck by a train backing up. Visibility was limited due to inclement weather. The Soldier received no injuries. The driver was properly licensed. The vehicle was not properly dispatched.

2. **What were the mistakes?**

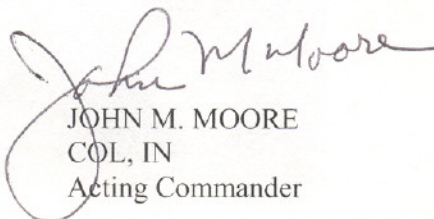
- a. Operating a truck without an assistant driver while transporting fuel.
- b. Inattentiveness. The driver lacked situational awareness of the on-going rail operations and did not recognize the railroad company escort vehicle with a flashing yellow light as the escort vehicle.

3. **Lessons Learned:**

- a. All drivers operating vehicles near rail operations and railroad tracks must stay alert for on-coming trains and personnel working in the area. During periods of limited visibility, take a few extra minutes to ensure that no trains are crossing the tracks or operating near the crossing.
- b. Remember to stop, look, and listen before you cross any railroad tracks. Fort Polk has continual rail operations, so stay alert. Even though the railroad provides escort vehicles, drivers are responsible for their actions.
- c. Leaders should review procedures about assistant drivers. Assistant drivers are required when transporting hazardous material. Army Regulation 385-55 and unit standing operating procedures strongly recommended that every vehicle larger than a HMMWV have an assistant driver.

4. Leaders must ensure that Soldiers understand the hazards around rail operations and stress being observant prior to crossing railroad tracks.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION, BRIEF TO ALL SOLDIERS, AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS!


JOHN M. MOORE
COL, IN
Acting Commander

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